

## **MMS Statement of Philosophy for School Counseling Program**

### Rationale for the Philosophy:

Our statement of philosophy for the MMS school counseling program, grades 5-8, identifies the centrality of school counseling within the educational process. It is based on the Mansfield Public School district's beliefs about all student educational growth and development, the nature of students and how they learn, and the competencies that all students will acquire as a result of their participation in our school counseling program. The School Counseling Program abides by our professional ethical codes to guide our decisions, practices and accountability by providing a safe and enriching school environment.

### Statement of Philosophy:

MMS School counseling services are predicated on the understanding that each student is a unique, developing, capable individual who learns from experience and grows personally, socially and educationally throughout adolescence. Respectful of individual differences, the two school counselors and interns from University of Connecticut School Counseling Program assist and support students as they begin to understand themselves, develop decision making and problem solving skills, and plan for the future. In addition to disseminating necessary and important educational and career information, the school counselors seek to promote each student's desire to maximize his/her potential in preparation for success in further education or a career. We apply a systematic method of data collection and evaluation to uncover achievement gaps and eliminate barriers to student success. The school counselors use this data to evaluate the program and make changes based upon students' needs.

Counseling promotes effective communication and life planning skills that help students grow into responsible adults. Designed to promote autonomy and a sense of personal responsibility in an increasingly complex diverse society, the MMS School Counseling program is vital to our students as they learn to cope with and emerge into young adulthood.

MMS' School Counseling Program is developmental, focusing on needs, interests, and issues related to the students' growth in three domains: personal/social, academic, and career/educational planning.